

Questions and Comments from Industry through March 8, 2006

	Question	Answer
<b>new</b>	Section C, Hardware replacement. The RFP states that replacement of the tabulation system shall begin no earlier than July 1, 2008, and replacement of the dissemination system no earlier than October 1, 2008(Sections C.4.7.2 and C.4.7.3, pages 23-24). This seems very risky to wait so long. If there's any way to move that timeline sooner, or at least allow us to bid some hardware in the replacement systems planning period, I think it would be smart.	The carefully crafted incremental replacement schedule has been designed to accomodate the Government's budget constraints.
<b>1</b>	RFP Reference C, in general. What Service Levels or Operating Levels exist between Directorates, Programs or Divisions at Census that provides Inputs to DADS (IE: Survey and Census Data Providers, Geographic Data Providers). Of these, how are they measured and reported, and what is the level of achievement against the Service or Operating Level Agreements? In other words, referencing Figure 1: Context Diagram (Sec.J-9.1.2 Organizational Structure), what Service or Operating Levels Exist between groups that provide services to DADS or receive services from DADS?	The Census Bureau utilizes Memorandum of Understanding and a Master Activity Schedule to manage the relationships between programs and divisions. The annual proposal process that is described in section C is used to detail critical milestones, hand-offs, etc required by the contractor for a given year.
<b>2</b>	RFP Reference C, in general. Is Census looking to leverage DADS solutions/investments across the distributed, non-Decennial databases?	Leveraging across the Census Bureau is not a requirement of this program.
<b>3</b>	RFP References C.2, page 2. The Census Bureau cites that the Contractor is considered a Full Partner. Please define the responsibilities and liabilities the Government places upon its Partner.	Because of the fluid relationship of the work, the Government desires a cooperative relationship. Responsibilities and liabilities are governed by the FAR.
<b>4</b>	RFP Reference C.2, page 3. What are the security requirements for the DADS II information technology environment?	Many of the Security Requirements are specified in Section C and will be further specified in Section J-7 to be released with the Final RFP.

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<b>5</b>	RFP Reference C.2, page 3. What are the legal deadlines and external commitments referenced in this objective?	This information will be posted in the Final RFP
<b>6</b>	RFP Reference C.2, page 2. Can you please identify the most critical program goals of DADS II in priority order?	The program goals are all of equal importance.
<b>7</b>	RFP Reference C.2, page 2. DADS II is focused upon tabulation and dissemination. However, many/most of the Program Goals and Objectives seem to be dependent upon the success of steps 1-3 of the process (Planning/Design, Data Collection and Editing). Are the goals for these steps the same as for DADS II and is there a current baseline of measures for these goals and objectives? Is there currently an ability, or a desire, to understand the root cause of a performance gap, or its downstream impacts?	This program is not responsible for aspects of the Census Bureau mentioned, (Planning/Design, Data Collection and Editing).
<b>8</b>	RFP Reference C.3.0, Table C3-2, page 4. Should the proposal include the technical approach for meeting the 2010 requirements for printed reports?	This area will be addressed in the Final RFP.
<b>9</b>	RFP Reference C.4.5, page 13. Is Census interested in moving to an open non-proprietary architecture?	The DADS Program is open to all proposed solutions including risks and benefits.
<b>10</b>	RFP Reference C.4.5, page 13. The DRFP cites that "The Contractor shall assess to SEI CMMI Level 3. Does this mean that the bidder need not be CMMI Level 3 at time of proposal or at time of award to remain compliant?	The bidder does not need to be CMMI Level 3 at the time of proposal, nor at the time of award. The winning vendor will need to demonstrate compliance within one year of contract award. Further details will be forthcoming in the Final RFP.
<b>11</b>	RFP Reference C.4.5, page 13. The DRFP requires the contractor to provide a DADS Architecture model no later than the end of Phase 2. Is there an existing DADS Architecture that can be used as a baseline and, if so, can it be made available to the bidders?	A Legacy Architecture document has been released with the Bidder's Library. The DADS Architecture required should be based on the bidder's proposal and not necessarily on the legacy architecture.

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12	RFP Reference C.4.5, page 13. Even though Section J-8 will not be released prior to issuance of the final RFP, can the government provide or tell potential bidders what security and IT requirements are currently being used within the DADS environment? Who is the Census' Designated Approving Authority (DAA)? Is there an existing set security policies and procedures that we can review prior to issuance of Section J-8?	The security policies of the Census Bureau are currently under review. The approved document will be released with the Final RFP. Current policies on Census Bureau Security can be found at <a href="http://www.census.gov/procur/www/contr-security.html">http://www.census.gov/procur/www/contr-security.html</a> . Preston Jay Waite, Associate Director for the Decennial Census, is the DAA (Authorizing Official) and Rick Swartz as CIO countersigns the accreditation package.
13	RFP Reference C.4.5.1, page 14, 6th paragraph. Please provide a list of Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), particularly software products that are purchased and maintained by the Census Bureau.	This area will be addressed in the Final RFP.
14	RFP Reference C.4.5.2, page 15. As cited in C.4.5.2, 2 <sup>nd</sup> paragraph, the incumbent workforce will be charging time to a contract. Will the winning contractor be required to bear the cost of the incumbent transition hours?	No
15	RFP Reference C.4.6.3, page 17. What is the level of trust (unclassified, classified (Secret and above) for the DADS II system? What clearance levels must contractor personnel hold?	The level of trust for DADS is Sensitive, Unclassified. Refer to Section C.4.6.3 regarding personnel security.
16	RFP Reference C.4.6.3, page 17. This section cites that the contractor must submit paperwork for new DADS employees at least six (6) calendar weeks before they commence work under this contract. Should this Offerors presume that the notification to proceed will be issued only after the awardees, following notification of award, has had sufficient time to comply with the six (6) calendar week requirement?	The Government intends to permit the bidder's key personnel to submit the required documentation before contract award.
17	RFP References C.5.3, page 22 and M.3.2.3, page 4. With respect to the contract transition,	The Final RFP will be revised to capture the Government's priorities surrounding swifter transition for cost savings versus minimizing risk as well as the timing of full assumption of duties.

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	a) Can you clarify the government's priorities for the transition period? Examples might include minimized risk (implying maximized transition time) versus swifter transition in order to achieving cost savings during the transition period.	
18	b) Will all vendors be evaluated under the assumption that full responsibility for the functions of the DADS program will begin under this contract no earlier than July 1, 2007?	
19	RFP References C.5.8, page 27. Please clarify the intended roles and responsibilities for the Key Personnel positions: (a) Financial Manager; and (b) Business Operations Specialist.	Key personnel positions will be clarified in the Final RFP.
20	RFP Reference J-1, page 20, paragraph 3.3.3.3. The government states that the requirements for data flow and reporting requirements are currently being defined. Once defined, will the government provide a more detailed explanation of the data flow and reporting requirements needs, associated with a monthly Economic Indicator release, that the contractor should anticipate handling/providing?	The annual proposal process will be utilized to expand and detail all requirements.
21	RFP Reference J-1, page 1. The Advanced Query (AQ) system is mentioned as requiring operations and maintenance, but the requirements documents do not include specific functional or technical requirements for this system.	This will be addressed in the Final RFP.
	a) How long should we anticipate that the current AQ system which contains Census 2000 data will be operated and maintained?	
	b) Is there a requirement for an AQ-like system (either an enhancement to the current system or a replacement) that would include other data sets, such as 2010 decennial data or ACS data?	
22	RFP Reference J-5, page 4. Throughout this subsection the government references improvement metrics over baseline. Can the government provide bidders the baseline performance statistics?	Performance metrics that affect pricing have been included in Section B. The Final RFP will provide some additional performance statistics, but the intent is to negotiate the actual baseline performance metrics after contract award.

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<b>23</b>	RFP Reference J-5. What are the specific implications to Census and the DADS II Program if you cannot demonstrate quantitative, agreeable measures of program goal achievement? For example, is DADS II Program Funding (for current and/or future years) tied to demonstrable Program Goal achievement? Who is/are the audience(s) or recipient's) of the contract performance measures against DADS II program goals?	The Census Bureau executive management receives the results of all performance metrics and these results are ultimately reported to OMB.
<b>24</b>	RFP Reference L.16.2.6.1, page 12. This section states that the Offerors may show relevant experience through a combination of contracts. Is this Offerors correct in presuming that a "combination" may include relevant experience of its subcontractors and partners?	The Offerors may show relevant experience though a combination of contracts, including those held by a subcontractor, if that subcontractor is proposed to support this contract.
<b>25</b>	RFP Reference L and M. Neither Section L nor Section M includes tangible specifications or evaluation incentives for meeting goals for subcontracting to small business. In order to ensure goals are met, the Government may want to add proposal requirements for tangible contractor proposal features showing commitment and demonstrated past performance.	This information will be in the Final RFP.
<b>26</b>	RFP Reference Section B. If Census awards DADS to a non-proprietary architecture, will the costs of application porting/migrations be evaluated separately?	The cost of application migration should be an element of the cost proposal.